

Amendments to the Claims

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1. (Currently Amended) ~~A connecting~~ Connecting element (1) for ~~releasably the~~ releasable connecting of a first part (20) with a second part (40), in particular a ~~bowden cable with a lever~~, comprising:

- a) a housing (10) which is rigidly attached to the first part (20);
- b) an engaging element (30) attached to the second part (40);
- c) a slide (50) with a receiving element (51) complementary shaped to the engaging element (30) for the releasable connection connecting of the engaging element (30) with the receiving element (51), ~~where the slide (50) can slide~~ being slidable inside the housing (10) from a first position ~~into to~~ a second position for latching together ~~the releasable connection between~~ the engaging element (30) and the receiving element (51);
- d) at least one ~~latching means (53)~~ latch for fixing the slide (50) in the second position;
- e) at least one ~~releasing means (55)~~ release member extending outwardly of the housing for manually acting onto the at least one latching means (53) to release the slide (50) from the second position for unlatching the releasable connection between the engaging element (30) and the receiving element (51) in order to separate the two parts from each other.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A connecting~~ Connecting element according to claim 1, wherein the at least one latch includes two snapping hooks (53) ~~are provided as latching means (53)~~ and the at least one release member includes at least one release lever (55) ~~as a release means (55)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A connecting~~ Connecting element according to claim 2, wherein the at least one release lever (55) is provided as two extensions (55) of the two snapping hooks (53) extending over the edge of the housing (10).

4. (Currently Amended) A connecting element according to claim 1, wherein the slide (50) slides along a bushing (60) extending through the housing (40).

5. (Currently Amended) A connecting element for releasably connecting of a first part with a second part, comprising:

- a) a housing which is rigidly attached to the first part;
- b) an engaging element attached to the second part;
- c) a slide with a receiving element complementary shaped to the engaging element for releasable connection of the engaging element (30) with the receiving element, the slide being slidable inside the housing from a first position to a second position for latching together the engaging element and the receiving element;
- d) at least one latch for fixing the slide in the second position;
- e) at least one release member extending outwardly of the housing for manually acting onto the at least one latching means to release the slide from the second position for unlatching the releasable connection between the engaging element and the receiving element in order to separate the two parts from each other; and wherein the the slide slides along a bushing extending through the housing; and ~~Connecting element according to claim 2, wherein additional recesses (61) for the snapping hooks (53) are provided inside the bushing (60) to preliminary fix the slide (50) for facilitating the connecting of the engaging element (30) with the receiving element (51) in the first position.~~

6. (Currently Amended) (Currently Amended) A connecting element for releasably connecting of a first part with a second part, comprising:

- a) a housing which is rigidly attached to the first part;
- b) an engaging element attached to the second part;
- c) a slide with a receiving element complementary shaped to the engaging element for releasable connection of the engaging element (30) with the receiving element, the slide being slidable inside the housing from a first

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position to a second position for latching together the engaging element and the receiving element;

- d) at least one latch for fixing the slide in the second position;
- e) at least one release member extending outwardly of the housing for manually acting onto the at least one latching means to release the slide from the second position for unlatching the releasable connection between the engaging element and the receiving element in order to separate the two parts from each other; and
wherein the the slide slides along a bushing extending through the housing; and ~~Connecting element according to claim 4,~~ wherein the bushing (60) is apart spaced from one or more slits (72) for the release member lever (55) covered by a cover (70) on the side opposite to the engaging element (30).

7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) A connecting ~~Connecting~~ element according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein a damping element (80) for damping the transmission of vibrations between the two parts (20, 40) is provided inside the housing (10).
9. (Currently Amended) A connecting ~~Connecting~~ element according to claim 8, wherein the damping element (80) is arranged between ~~the~~ a bushing (60) and the housing (10).
10. (Currently Amended) A connecting ~~Connecting~~ element according to claim 9, wherein the bushing comprises lateral projections or edges (62) coacting for its fixing with recesses (84) of the damping element (80).
11. (New) A connecting ~~Connecting~~ element according to claim 6, wherein on the outer side of the cover (70) a holding and/or support surface (74) is arranged for facilitating the connecting of the two parts (20, 40).